

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 ERDA-05 OES-03 FEA-01 /077 W

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R 281607Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7808

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 2205

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO ALL OPEC CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ANNOUNCES MEETING BETWEEN
PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FIDEL CASTRO

1. CARACAS PRESS FEBRUARY 28 CARRIES AFP REPORT THAT ON FEB. 27
THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, JOSE LUIS SALCEDO BASTARDO,
ANNOUNCED IN PARIS THAT PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND CUBAN
PRIME MINISTER FEDEL CASTRO WOULD MEET IN CARACAS IN JULY. THIS
AFP REPORT ALSO QUOTES AMBASSADOR SALCEDO AS SAYING THAT:
QUOTE THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETING
OF CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICA WHICH, AT THE
INITIATIVE OF MY COUNTRY, WILL TAKE PLACE IN CARACAS NEXT JULY.
QUOTE THIS INITIATIVE AROSE DURING THE LAST LATIN AMERICAN
HEADS OF STATE MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN LIMA TO
COMMEMORATE THE BATTLE OF AYACUCHO.
QUOTE ON THAT OCCASION ALL OF THE COUNTRIES PRESENT, EXCEPT
CHILE, WHICH HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT CUBA'S ATTENDANCE AT THE
CARACAS HEADS OF STATE MEETING, APPROVED THE IDEA... ALTHOUGH
RESPECTABLE, THE POSITION TOWARD CUBA OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION
LEFT THE LATTER IN AN ISOLATED (SOLITARIA) SITUATION. END QUOTE
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2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNSURE WHY THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE WOULD TAKE IT UPON HIMSELF TO MAKE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT, WE NOTE THAT VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM PASSED THROUGH PARIS ON FEBRUARY 27 ENROUTE TO THE OPEC SUMMIT MEETING IN ALGIERS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SALCEDO'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PEREZ-CASTRO MEETING MAY BE INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESTIGE AMONG THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OF PRESIDENT PEREZ, WHO IS ABOUT TO ATTEND THE OPEC SUMMIT MEETING IN ALGIERS.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA02205
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750072-0345
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975024/aaaaaczg.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ANNOUNCES MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FIDEL CASTRO
TAGS: PFOR, VE, CU, (CASTRO, FIDEL), (SALCEDO BASTARDO, JOSE LUIS), (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006